

Application No. 10/675,419
Response dated July 21, 2006
to Office Action mailed February 21, 2006

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3, 11, 14, 17 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Takizawa U.S. Patent No. 6,472,127. Claims 2, 4-5, 9-10 and 18 are rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takizawa in view of Phan et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,136,514. Claims 6-8 are rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takizawa in view of Ogata U.S. Patent No. 5,845,170. Claims 12-13 and 15-16 are rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takizawa in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0029026 Hayasaki et al. Claims 20-21, 23-25, 28, 31 and 34-35 are rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takizawa in view of Phan et al. Claim 22 is rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takizawa in view of Phan et al., and further in view of Maemori et al. U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0058202. Claims 26-27 are rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takizawa in view of Phan et al., and further in view of Ogata. Claims 29-30 and 32-33 are rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takizawa in view of Phan et al., and further in view of Hayasaki et al.

Applicants affirm the election of Group I, claims 1-35, directed to a method, and the claim of Group II, claim 36, is cancelled herein without prejudice to its filing in a divisional application.

As amended herein, each pending claim includes the feature that the surfactant-containing liquid is displaced by the developing solution. The following definitions for "displace" may be found from www.dictionary.com:

dis·place  **Pronunciation Key** (dĭs-plā's')
tr.v. **dis·placed, dis·plac·ing, dis·plac·es**

1. To move or shift from the usual place or position, especially to force to leave a homeland:
millions of refugees who were displaced by the war.
2. To take the place of; supplant.
3. To discharge from an office or position.

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dis·place[']a·ble *adj.*
dis·plac[']er *n.*

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Source: *The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition*
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Main Entry: **dis·place**

Pronunciation: (')dis-'plAs

Function: *transitive verb*

Inflected Forms: **-placed**; **-plac·ing**

1 a : to remove from the usual or proper place <in heterotopia the gray portions of the cord are *displaced* so that patches of gray matter are scattered among the bundles of white fibers —R. L. Cecil *et al*> **b** : to shift (an emotion or behavior) from a maladaptive or unacceptable object or form of outlet to a more adaptive or acceptable one <*displace* punishable behavior by directing it towards things that cannot punish —B. F. Skinner>
2 : to set free from chemical combination by taking the place of <zinc *displaces* the hydrogen of dilute acids>
3 : to subject to percolation

Source: *Merriam-Webster's Medical Dictionary*, © 2002 Merriam-Webster, Inc.

displace

v 1: take the place of 2: force to move; "the refugees were displaced by the war" [syn: force out] 3: move (people) forcibly from their homeland into a new and foreign

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environment; "The war uprooted many people" [syn: uproot, deracinate] 4: cause to move, both in a concrete and in an abstract sense; "Move those boxes into the corner, please"; "I'm moving my money to another bank"; "The director moved more responsibilities onto his new assistant" [syn: move] 5: remove or force from a position of dwelling previously occupied; "The new employee dislodged her by moving into her office space" [syn: dislodge, bump] 6: put out of its usual place, position, or relationship; "The colonists displaced the natives" [syn: dislocate]

Source: WordNet ® 2.0, © 2003 Princeton University

Takizawa, alone or in combination with Phan et al., do not teach displacing a surfactant-containing liquid with a developing solution. Takizawa forms a surfactant layer 18 on the surface of the resist layer that includes hydrophobic groups 19 attached to the resist layer, and hydrophilic groups 20 attached to the hydrophobic groups. The hydrophilic groups provide adherence for the developing solution. Takizawa states "the surface of the photoresist film 12 is hydrophilic as the surfactant layer 18 containing the hydrophilic groups is formed on it in advance by coating. Therefore, reattachment of the developing solvent component is relaxed." There is no displacement of the surfactant by the developing solution, rather, the developing solution is applied over the surfactant. Because Takizawa does not disclose each and every element of the claimed invention, namely displacement of a surfactant-containing liquid by a developing solution, there can be no anticipation of the claims, and it is respectfully requested that the rejection under § 102 be withdrawn. Phan et al. contains no teaching or suggestion that the developing solution displaces the surfactant, such that Phan et al. does not provide the missing teaching or suggestion when combined with Takizawa. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejection under § 103 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments to the claims and remarks given herein, Applicants respectfully believe this case is in condition for allowance and respectfully request

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allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes any detailed language of the claims requires further discussion, the Examiner is respectfully asked to telephone the undersigned attorney so that the matter may be promptly resolved. The Examiner's prompt attention to this matter is appreciated.

Applicants are of the opinion that no additional claims fee is due as a result of this Amendment. Applicants are also of the opinion that a two-month extension of time is due with this Amendment. Payment of all charges due for this filing is made on the attached Electronic Fee Sheet. If any additional charges or credits are necessary to complete this communication, please apply them to Deposit Account No. 23-3000.

Respectfully submitted,

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